

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1 1. (currently amended): A method providing security for a plurality of data records
2 stored on a computer readable medium within a computing system , wherein
3 said computer readable medium additionally stores a first data structure,
4 starting at a first location within said computer readable medium, locating data
5 records in said plurality thereof,
6 said method comprises an encryption subroutine executed as said computing
7 system is being shut down and a decryption subroutine executed as said computing
8 system is being initialized,
9 said encryption subroutine includes receiving a request to shut down said
10 computing system, reading said first data structure from said computer readable
11 medium, encrypting said first data structure with a public key of said computing
12 system, without encrypting said plurality of data records, to produce an encrypted
13 version of said first data structure that can only be decrypted with a private key of
14 said computing system to prevent reading information stored in said data records
15 with said computer readable medium removed from said computing system,
16 deleting said first data structure from said computer readable medium, and storing
17 said encrypted version of said first data structure in nonvolatile storage, starting at
18 a second location within said nonvolatile storage, and
19 said decryption subroutine includes determining that electrical power has
20 been turned on in said computing system, reading said encrypted version of said
21 first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version
22 of said first data structure with said private key of said computing system to form
23 said first data structure, and writing said first data structure to said computer
24 readable medium, starting at said first location.
- 1 2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said second location is on said computer
2 readable medium

1 3. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said second location is at said first
location.

1 4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile storage is a memory
2 structure, separate from said computer readable medium, within said computing
3 system.

1 5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein
2 encryption of said first data structure occurs within a cryptographic processor
3 in said computing system using an encryption key,
4 said cryptographic processor is separate from a system processor within said
5 computing system, and
6 decryption of said encrypted version of said first data structure occurs within
7 said cryptographic processor in said computing system using a decryption key
8 generated from data stored in secure storage accessed by said cryptographic
9 processor.

1 6. (canceled)

1 7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said encrypted version of said first data
2 structure is equal in length to said first data structure.

1 8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein
2 said computer readable medium additionally stores a second data structure,
3 starting at a second location within said computer readable medium, describing
4 characteristics of said first data structure, and
5 said encryption subroutine additionally includes reading said second data
6 structure to determine characteristics of said first data structure

1 9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein
2 said first data structure is a file allocation table, and
3 said second data structure is a boot record.

1 10. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein
2 said first data structure includes an array of file records in a master file table
3 of a NTFS file, and
4 said second data structure includes metafile data in said master file table.

1 11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein
2 said method additionally comprises a configuration subroutine providing a
3 user interface for setting and resetting a configuration bit, and
4 said encryption subroutine is executed according to a state of said
5 configuration bit.

1 12. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein
2 said encryption subroutine additionally includes setting a flag bit in non-
3 volatile storage, and
4 said decryption subroutine is executed only when said flag bit is set.

1 13. (currently amended): A method providing security for a plurality of data records
2 stored on a computer readable medium within a computing system, wherein
3 said computer readable medium additionally stores a first data structure starting
4 at a first location within said computer readable medium, locating data records in said
5 plurality thereof,
6 said method comprises an encryption subroutine executed to encrypt said
7 first data structure and a decryption subroutine subsequently executed to decrypt
8 an encrypted version of said first data structure,
9 said encryption subroutine includes reading said first data structure from said
10 computer readable medium, encrypting said first data structure, without encrypting

11 said plurality of data records, within a cryptographic processor in said computing
12 system using an encryption key to produce an encrypted version of said first
13 data structure to prevent reading information stored in said data records with
14 said computer readable medium removed said computer system, deleting said first
15 data structure from said computer readable medium, and storing said encrypted
16 version of said first data structure in nonvolatile storage, starting at a second
17 location within said nonvolatile storage, and
18 said decryption subroutine includes reading said encrypted version of said
19 first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version
20 of said first data structure within said cryptographic processor in said computing
21 system using a decryption key generated from data stored in secure storage
22 accessed by said cryptographic processor to form said first data structure, and
23 writing said data structure to said computer readable medium, starting at said first
24 location.

1 14. (original): The method of claim 13, wherein
2 said encryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving a request to
3 shut down said computing system, and
4 said decryption subroutine is executed in response to electrical power being
5 turned on within said computing system.

1 15. (original): The method of claim 14, wherein
2 said method additionally comprises a configuration subroutine providing a
3 user interface for setting and resetting a configuration bit, and
4 said encryption subroutine is executed according to a state of said
5 configuration bit.

1 16. (original): The method of claim 15, wherein
2 said encryption subroutine additionally includes setting a flag bit in non-
3 volatile storage, and
4 said decryption subroutine is executed only when said flag bit is set.

1 17. (original): The method of claim 13, wherein
2 said method additionally comprises a cryptographic selection subroutine
3 providing a graphical user interface,
4 said cryptographic selection subroutine includes displaying a choice between
5 encryption and decryption, displaying representations of computer readable medium
6 in said computing system, and receiving a cryptographic selection signal indicative
7 of whether encryption or decryption is to occur and of a chosen computer readable
8 medium,
9 said encryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving a
10 cryptographic selection signal indicating encryption is to occur, with said first data
11 structure of said chosen computer readable medium being encrypted, and
12 said decryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving a
13 cryptographic selection signal indicating decryption is to occur, and with said
14 encrypted version of said first data structure of said chosen computer readable
15 medium being decrypted.

1 18. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein said encrypted version of said first data
2 structure is stored in nonvolatile storage on said chosen computer readable
3 medium.

1 19. (currently amended): A computing system providing secure storage of a
2 plurality of data records comprising:
3 a first computer readable medium storing said plurality of data records and
4 a first data structure providing locations and sequences for accessing data within
5 said data records;

6 a first drive unit recording data on said first computer readable medium and
7 reading data from said computer readable medium;
8 nonvolatile storage;
9 a cryptographic processor, wherein said cryptographic processor is
10 programmed to execute an internal encryption routine to encrypt a data structure,
11 forming an encrypted version of said data structure using an encryption key, without
12 encrypting said plurality of data records, and to execute subsequently an internal
13 decryption routine, decrypting said encrypted version of said data structure, using a
14 decryption key;
15 secure storage, accessed by said cryptographic processor, holding data used
16 within said cryptographic processor to derive said decryption key;
17 a microprocessor, separate from said cryptographic processor, wherein said
18 microprocessor is programmed to execute a data structure encryption routine to
19 encrypt said first data structure and to execute subsequently a data structure
20 decryption routine to decrypt an encrypted version of said first data structure,
21 wherein said data structure encryption routine includes causing said cryptographic
22 processor to read said first data structure from said computer readable medium, to
23 execute said internal encryption routine, encrypting said data structure to form said
24 encrypted version of said first data structure, preventing reading information stored
25 in said data records with said computer readable medium removed from said
26 computing system and to write said encrypted version of said first data structure to
27 nonvolatile storage, wherein said first data structure is additionally deleted from said
28 first computer readable medium during execution of said data structure encryption
29 subroutine, and wherein said data structure decryption subroutine includes causing
30 said cryptographic processor to read said encrypted version of said first data
31 structure from nonvolatile storage, to decrypt said encrypted version of said first data
32 structure, forming said first data structure, and to write said first data structure to said
33 computer readable medium, starting at said first location.

1 20. (original): The computing system of claim 19, wherein
2 said first drive unit is a hard drive,
3 said data structure encryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving
4 a request to shut down said computing system, and
5 said data structure decryption subroutine is executed in response to electrical
6 power being turned on within said computing system.

1 21. (original): The computing system of claim 20, wherein
2 said microprocessor is additionally programmed to execute a configuration
3 subroutine providing a user interface for setting and resetting a configuration bit,
4 and
5 said encryption subroutine is executed according to a state of said
6 configuration bit.

1 22. (original): The computing system of claim 21, wherein
2 said encryption subroutine additionally includes setting a flag bit in non-
3 volatile storage, and
4 said decryption subroutine is executed only when said flag bit is set.

1 23. (original): The computing system of claim 19, wherein
2 said computer readable medium is removable,
3 said method additionally comprises a cryptographic selection subroutine
4 providing a graphical user interface,
5 said cryptographic selection subroutine includes displaying a choice between
6 encryption and decryption, displaying representations of computer readable medium
7 in said computing system, and receiving a cryptographic selection signal indicative
8 of whether encryption or decryption is to occur and of a chosen computer readable
9 medium,
10 said encryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving a
11 cryptographic selection signal indicating encryption is to occur, with said first data

12 structure of said chosen computer readable medium being encrypted, and
13 said decryption subroutine is executed in response to receiving a
14 cryptographic selection signal indicating decryption is to occur, and with said
15 encrypted version of said first data structure of said chosen computer readable
16 medium being decrypted.

1 24. (original): The computing system of claim 23, wherein said encrypted version of
2 said first data structure is stored in nonvolatile storage on said chosen computer
3 readable medium.

1 25. (original): The computing system of claim 19, wherein
2 said computer readable medium additionally stores a second data structure,
3 starting at a second location within said computer readable medium, describing
4 characteristics of said first data structure, and
5 said data structure encryption subroutine additionally includes reading said
6 second data structure to determine characteristics of said first data structure.

1 26. (previously presented): A method, within a computing system, providing
2 security for a plurality of data records stored with a first data structure locating
3 data records in said plurality thereof on a computer readable medium within said
4 computing system, wherein said method comprises:
5 encrypting said first data structure to form an encrypted version of said
6 first data structure without encrypting said plurality of data records as said
7 computing system is being shut down, and
8 decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure as said
9 computing system is being initialized.

1 27. (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein said first data
2 record is encrypted with a public key of said computing system and decrypted
3 with a private key of said computing system.

1 28. (previously presented): The method of claim 26, additionally comprising:
2 writing said encrypted version of said first data structure to said computer
3 readable medium after encrypting said first data structure; and reading said
4 encrypted version of said first data structure from said computer readable
5 medium before decrypting said encrypted version of said computer readable
6 medium.